
To Matthew Wright

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Copies

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From Zoe Webb

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Subject Ecology monitoring update

Introduction

In line with the commitments made by Pinewood Studios in the Ecological Management and Monitoring Plan, submitted as part of the planning application, monitoring of newly created and enhanced habitats and newly installed ecological features has commenced across the Phase 1 area. The site has been surveyed three times; in April, May and June 2017, with one further survey scheduled for October. Following this, a meeting will be held with the County Ecologist to discuss the results of the monitoring.

The monitoring process is dynamic, with the results feeding into the management regime of the site as the surveys progress, allowing the opportunity for any issues to be identified and rectified early on.



Memorandum

Green Roofs

Five green roofs, totalling approximately 1.4 hectares, were installed during the Phase 1 development. The monitoring of these features focusses on the establishment and development of plant communities and the presence and abundance of target species, including skylark and invertebrates.

The vegetation on all five roofs has established well with species including groundsel, meadow buttercup, red and white clover, ragged robin, cranesbill, red campion, ox-eye daisy and mouse-ear being recorded. Evidence of invertebrate colonisation was recorded on all five roofs with species noted including red-tailed bumblebee, ladybird, lacewing, small white butterfly and red admiral butterfly.

One pair of skylark has been confirmed as breeding on one of the green roofs, with a potential second breeding pair on another roof. Red kite, pied wagtail and wheatear have also been recorded during the surveys to date.



April 2016, during installation of the first green roof.



April 2017, one year on from installation

Memorandum

Badger

Evidence of badger activity has been recorded during monitoring surveys and setts identified previously, in the vicinity of the Phase 1 area, remain active.

Reptiles

The bund created along Pinewood Road has established well and is now considered suitable reptile habitat. It offers features suitable for active and hibernating reptiles and could be further enhanced by the incorporation of additional hibernacula features. Two adult common lizard (a male and a female) were identified in the Phase 2 development area during the second survey. Historical surveys indicated that the reptile population on site was focussed around The Clump, therefore these initial results could suggest that the reptile population has become more widespread across the site.



Habitats

The newly created and enhanced habitats are establishing well. Of particular focus are the two attenuation ponds, hedgerows and treelines on site, as these provide habitat connectivity through the site and resource for species such as bats.

Around the northern pond, which was created towards the end of Phase 1, the vegetation has not fully established. However, it is expected that another year will allow this waterbody to develop further in order to attract invertebrate communities and support a more diverse range of species.



As part of the on-going management, any dead saplings are being removed and replaced in order to maintain the functionality of hedgerows. In addition, additional staking of taller saplings has been recommended following the most recent survey as wind forces have caused some to weaken.